



Hammond, Anne <anne_hammond@fws.gov>

Fwd: Retirement

1 message

Anne Hammond <anne_hammond@fws.gov>
To: "Salazar, Monica" <monica_salazar@fws.gov>

Mon, Aug 6, 2018 at 4:16 PM

Anne Hammond
Assistant Regional Director, Budget and Administration
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Southwest Region
Phone: (505) 248-6857
Fax: (505) 248-6856
Email: Anne_hammond@fws.gov

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From: Koch, Ted <ted_koch@fws.gov>
Date: Mon, Aug 6, 2018 at 3:00 PM
Subject: Retirement
To: FW2 ES <fw2_es@fws.gov>, FW2 RDT <fw2_rdt@fws.gov>, Gary Frazer <gary_frazer@fws.gov>, Gina Shultz <Gina_Shultz@fws.gov>, FWS ES Regional ARDs <fws_esRegional_ards@fws.gov>

Hello-

I am retiring from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service August 31. That is hard for me to say.

When I was 16 years old living in Connecticut I knew I wanted to be a biologist, and after coming to grips with the fact that the public sector was where it's at, I thought about working for a state wildlife agency. Then I thought, wouldn't it be cool if there was a federal fish and game? That's who I'd want to work for, living in the west with a beautiful wife and 2.3 children (dogs, cats, herps), working on cool conservation projects. Turns out I was lucky, and I have truly been living the dream for the last 30 years.

So why give it up? First, I never intended to be a government employee for an entire career, but I just did, and at age 54 that career is now mostly behind me. And second, it's because I had another dream. When I was 23 I shot my first elk, and when I told my parents, they said, "but you're supposed to save wildlife!" Since then I realized hunter/anglers and non-hunter/anglers are too often apart when they shouldn't be. My dream was to occupy a space in between where a shared interest in conservation lives. To do so, I plan to reinvigorate my active support for bringing all types of conservationists together. And I plan to walk the talk by hunting and fishing and birding and hiking and rafting and camping a lot more!

I realize that I will always love you and the work and the agency we make, and if I waited for a time when I didn't love you, I would never leave. This makes leaving very difficult for me. I hope you will continue to give me all the love and support you can for the next four weeks, and beyond.

Yours truly,

Ted

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Ted Koch
Assistant Regional Director, Ecological Services